



### A big thank you

– to everyone who helped with the CARA litterpick in April. We collected about 10 bags of landfill rubbish, mostly small bits of plastic and polystyrene, 3 bags of muddy but recyclable glass, metal and plastic bottles, a couple of waterlogged footballs, some plant containers, and one needle and one kitchen knife, though fewer vodka bottles and cigarette ends than on past litter-picks. Lots of passers-by stopped to tell us we were doing a very good job – as we were!

– to Trevor Willis and volunteers (*pictured below, right*) who helped with various painting and repair jobs in Canbury Gardens in May. There is little or no funding available for this kind of job these days, so if we want the Gardens to be well maintained, it seems that we must do it ourselves.

– to everyone who helped with this year's CARA barbecue in June at the Pavilion in the Gardens. Summer had arrived at last so we had lovely weather and lots of locals, including some welcome new faces, enjoyed Pimms and the food laid on by local butchers Bevan's, the CARA Committee and their helpers.

– Ham House and River of Flowers for the wild flower seeds planted by Trevor Willis (*pictured below, left*) and Marilyn Mason on the riverside earlier this year.



**YOU ARE INVITED**  
to  
**the CARA AGM on Tuesday 29 October.**  
See page 3 for details and agenda.

### Canbury Gardens news

**Congratulations** to Canbury Gardens on retaining its green flag this year.

**Kingston Environment Centre** has found other premises and a plot by Mill Street to cultivate, so will not be moving to the old gardeners' compound.

**Anti-social behaviour in the Gardens:** a Council consultation on a local Controlled Drinking Zone (or DPPO) ends on October 4. See a map of the proposed zone, which includes the Gardens as well as the town centre, and questionnaire (very simple to fill in) at <http://tinyurl.com/nxxd22g>, or pick up a flier from a library or the Guildhall. Find more information about DPPOs in Factsheet 5 on the CARA website.

Please also email details of any incidents, current or historical, to Kingston Police ([vklicensingoffice@met.police.uk](mailto:vklicensingoffice@met.police.uk)) as they need actual examples of problems to make the case for including Canbury Gardens in the DPPO. If problems go unreported and unrecorded, a town centre DPPO may not include the Gardens, and anti-social behaviour could get worse in our neighbourhood.

## Planning and parking updates

### The former Regal Cinema/Bingo Hall

New proposals for this attractive but neglected Grade-2-listed building on Richmond Road were displayed at Tiffin school in June. These include the creation of a restaurant on several floors in the main part of the auditorium though not over the whole space and using lots of glass, so it would remain fairly open with much of the original art deco paint- and plaster-work visible. A vertical subdivision would provide a “boutique cinema” in the upper circle tiered space. The plans, which also include offices to the rear of the building, some hotel/short-let apartments, and luxury apartments built on the rooftop of the existing building with basement parking for residents, should appear on [www.cnimestates.com/KingstonGala](http://www.cnimestates.com/KingstonGala). The good news that there are no plans for a night-club has been confirmed – and it does seem that developers CNM have responded to at least some local suggestions, as reported in our spring newsletter. CNM’s planned schedule is to submit their proposals this autumn, followed by detailed designs, with construction starting in spring 2014 for completion and opening in 2015.

### Latchmere House.

In July a public exhibition at Tiffin Girls’ School presented Berkeley’s proposals for the development of the former prison site. Our neighbours from TARAK report that 25 flats are planned for Latchmere House, with 76 houses, including some social housing, on the rest of the site – see [www.latchmerehouse.co.uk](http://www.latchmerehouse.co.uk). Even though the site is not within the CARA area, this number of new homes will not only affect immediate neighbours, but will have impacts on the wider area, including the library, buses, traffic, post office, surgeries, schools... so may be one to watch.

### Local parking

A group of residents in Albany Park Road and Lower Ham Road have been pressing the Council for nearly a year to bring in some controls to prevent drivers parking all day in the non-CPZ part of the CARA area. A survey of residents in these roads nearly a year ago showed that a very substantial majority would like some form of control so that commuters and other drivers could not use the roads for free long-term parking. They also say that Lower Ham Road in particular should be a road for easy non-hazardous use by cyclists and pedestrians as well as drivers. Their case, which is supported by the CARA committee, was discussed at a Kingston Council Town Neighbourhood Committee meeting in January, which asked Council traffic engineers to come up with recommendations. The team has now studied the problem and will present their recommendations at the Town Neighbourhood Committee meeting on Wednesday 25th September. As it is a public meeting, those interested can attend. The outcome will be published on our website.

We understand that residents in Eastbury and other roads in the current CPZ are pressing for the weekday regulations to be extended into the weekend to relieve similar problems with Sunday parking in their roads.

## CARA Nature Watch

**Proud parents:** it was a good year for birds breeding by the riverside. Pictured on the right from top to bottom: Egyptian Goose and duckling; Greylag Geese with gosling; Mute Swan with cygnets. Also seen, a pair of exotic Mandarin Ducks, but no ducklings.

### Insects and bats

It was also a very good summer for insects (as anyone who walked, cycled or jogged by the river can confirm) and the swifts and other insectivorous birds seemed to have thrived on them – but where were the bats? Local experts tell us that they are still around, but on very hot evenings set out later so are less likely to be seen.

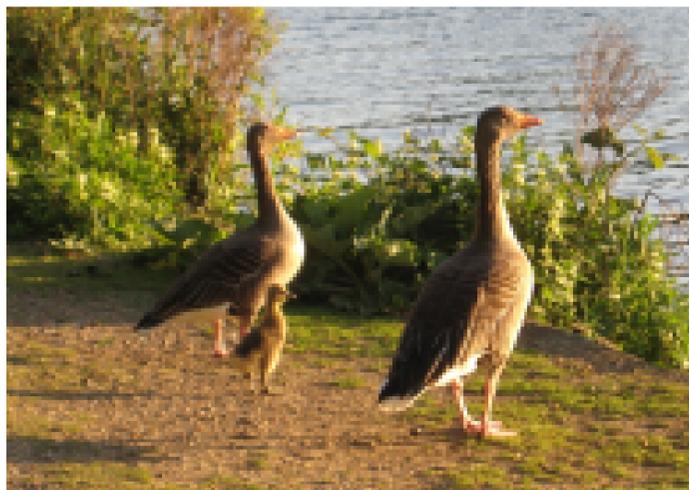
### Do you like birds and butterflies?

Most people do, but fewer know what birds and butterflies need in order to flourish. Some keen gardeners destroy the nettles and other weeds and wild flowers that provide food for butterfly caterpillars, some of which in turn provide food for birds. Weeds also provide homes and forage for the bees and other pollinators that our food crops rely on, and, in late summer and autumn, food for seed-eating birds. For bees, butterflies and bees to thrive, we need to tolerate a little untidiness, leave weedy corners and piles of rotting logs, and encourage the Council to let grass verges grow long and go to seed. See Factsheet 2 on how to help wildlife at different times of year on our website.

This summer was apparently a good one for butterflies – learn more about them at <http://butterfly-conservation.org>.

**Did you know...** that some popular garden flowers, for example petunias, geraniums, fuchsia, nicotiana and salvia, are unattractive to bees because they are the wrong shape, or the wrong colour, or they have little or no nectar?

**Spotted by the river, a mink** running across the road. No doubt this invasive alien (American) species is a pest, but it was nice to see a live one – and so beautiful, sleek and black, just like the one on the right!



## Local walks

Are you interested in Kingston’s fascinating history? If so, why not join a tour led by a trained guide on a Sunday afternoon? Groups meet at the gates of the church in the Market Place at 2.30 every Sunday from April till September, and every first Sunday of the month in winter. Walks last an hour and a half and cost £4 per head. Groups can be catered for, and if you would like to arrange a walk on a weekday please contact either Mike Seigel, on 020 8546 8487 or Bryony Bridges on 020 8399 0160.

**Did you see...** CARA website updates and news about: what to do in a heatwave (could still come in useful if we have an Indian summer); the consultation on Heathrow expansion; the exhibition about proposals for the former Regal cinema/bingo hall; another chance to see the Kingston Aviation Exhibition in August; the River Festival and Regatta in July; and much more...?

Do have an occasional look at our website and Facebook page for local news, events and issues between newsletters. For example, should CARA support the Ham Hydro scheme, and/or oppose Heathrow expansion?

## Help cut local crime

According to police statistics for Tudor ward, this remains a relatively safe neighbourhood with little violent crime and surprisingly little reported anti-social or rowdy behaviour. But houses do still get burgled, thieves still use tricks and distraction techniques to get into homes, and cycles get stolen – even The Albany, a gated development with a caretaker, recently had a break-in, with bikes and power-tools taken from locked sheds. You can help cut local crime even further as your road’s Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator. Please get in touch with Trevor Willis (see page 4 for contact info) if you’d like to volunteer.

## CARA 2013 AGM AT THE PAVILION, CANBURY GARDENS, TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER, 8.00PM

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. 2012 Minutes and matters arising, if any
3. Chairman’s report
4. Financial statements
5. Membership report
6. Election of Committee 2013/14
7. Guest speaker: Camilla Churchill, a House Steward at Ham House\*
8. Any Other Business / Q & A

Refreshments will be served

**All welcome, but only CARA members may vote.** (Renwals are due in October and you may join or rejoin via the website or at the AGM.)

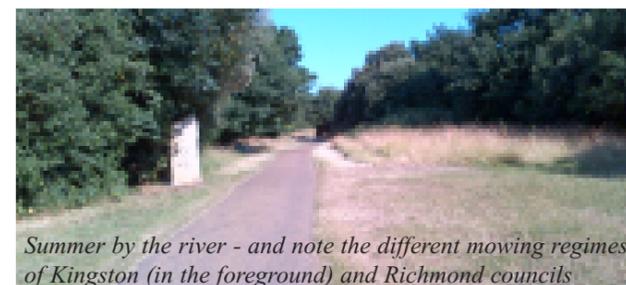
### If you’d like to do more...

you could stand for the Committee – being involved is a great way to get to know what’s going on locally and people who share your interest in maintaining the special nature of our neighbourhood.

Even if you can’t come to every meeting, we would be very pleased to have you on board, especially if you live in an under-represented road (see back page). Volunteers should come along to the AGM or contact John Parrish.



\* **King Charles, courtiers and a cabal** – we have them all on our doorstep at Ham House, the GCHQ of the Royalist movement during the time of the English Civil War, and Camilla Churchill will give us a brief history of the House, the Dysart family, whose home it was for nearly 350 years until the 1950s, and its wonderful collection of paintings, tapestries and carvings. Camilla is also the Film and TV co-ordinator for Ham House, a much sought-after venue for historical movies and TV programmes – so we will not only get a bit of history but maybe the story behind the story of Ham House today.



*Summer by the river - and note the different mowing regimes of Kingston (in the foreground) and Richmond councils*

## CARA COMMITTEE

Fay Clough, 208 Richmond Road, KT2 5HE;  
Fayclough@hotmail.com; 07738 291 616

Penny D'Souza (CARA spokesperson; Council contact; liaison with Canbury Gardens Working Party), 14 Chestnut Road; pennysouza@blueyonder.co.uk; 020 8549 5331

Clare Francis (liaison with Conservation Area Advisory Committee, Kingston Heights), 16 Chestnut Road; clarefrancis@gmail.co; 020 8549 4581

Anneke Ferrier (social events; Albany liaison), 1 York Court, The Albany, Albany Park Road, KT2 5ST; anneke.ferrier@gmail.com; 20 8274 0823

Marilyn Mason (CARA newsletter and communications; Town Centre Management liaison), 142 Lower Ham Road; marilyn.mason@virgin.net; 020 8546 4086

Richard Mobbs (newsletter distribution; Thames Landscape Strategy liaison), Chestnut Road; richard@statacom.net; 07762 598 309

John Parrish, 108 Lower Ham Road;  
john.parrish@zen.co.uk; 020 8546 1235

Trevor Willis (liaison with police, Canbury Pavilion, Youth Provisioning Project), 7 Eastbury Road; trevorwillis@london.com; 07889 731 264; 020 8549 3076

Peter Wolf (treasurer), 126 Lower Ham Rd;  
pgw\_subs@yahoo.co.uk; 020 8541 3191

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

■ **Saturday 26 October 11.15am – lunch-time, CARA autumn riverside litter-pick:** please come



along to the Lower Ham Road entrance to the Albany Canoe and Sailing Centre, to help tidy up the river bank – this time we will be focusing on the stretch by Canbury Gardens and along Lower Ham Road. CARA will provide grabbers, gloves (you may prefer your own), rubbish sacks, high-visibility vests, and guidance on health and safety at 11.15.

Families welcome, as long as children are with a responsible adult.

■ **Tuesday 29 October, 8.00pm: CARA AGM at the Pavilion:** see page 3 for details

See [www.kingstonfirst.co.uk](http://www.kingstonfirst.co.uk) for events happening on our doorstep in the town centre: in October, the Night Market and the Kingston Run Challenge, and in November, the Christmas Lights Switch On... + what's on at the Rose Theatre.

## You told us what you wanted – and here's some of what we did

Our spring survey and the new "Contact Us" form on the website have spurred us to various actions, including investigating how safe the avenue of plane trees in Canbury Gardens is: very safe we were assured, despite the developer's pictures implying excellent tree-less views of the river from all the new riverside flats.

Updates on local planning issues appear regularly on our website and we'll continue to email members and tweet about issues that can't wait for the next newsletter.

In response to complaints from local residents, and while we await proper signage from the Council or its contractors, we are using the notice-boards in the Gardens to indicate the nearest public toilets (in Boaters), and asking visitors not to leave litter. We are also talking to Council officers about much-needed bigger, animal-proof, litter-bins in the Gardens.

Thanks to the efforts of Stuart Devall and the CARA committee, seven cherry trees will be planted in existing pits in river roads this winter. As these are replacement trees, there will be no cost to residents.

Do please keep us informed, join CARA, discuss local issues on our Facebook page, come to our AGM and other community events, let us have your email address, and tell us if you'd like to get involved in other ways.

## Do you remember the Green Fair?

The first Kingston Green Fair was held in May 1987 in Canbury Gardens, an innovative event in its day that influenced green thinking and festivals well beyond Kingston. The Heritage Lottery Fund has provided funding to help research and archive this piece of local history, and the project volunteers would welcome memorabilia – photos, programmes, documents, letters – to add to their growing collection, which featured in a fascinating exhibition at Kingston Museum this summer. If you would like to be involved in this project in any way please email [info@thegreenfairkingston.org](mailto:info@thegreenfairkingston.org) or see the website, [www.thegreenfairkingston.org/home.html](http://www.thegreenfairkingston.org/home.html).



## North Kingston school

The opening of the new secondary free school is now scheduled for September 2015. You can follow progress at [www.kingstoneducationaltrust.org/content/news.html](http://www.kingstoneducationaltrust.org/content/news.html).